

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 27-28 and 60-61 are pending. The Applicants gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the detailed Office Action by the Examiner. Claims 1-26, 29-59 and 62-76 have been cancelled, and claims 27 and 60 have been amended.

1. Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement, the Applicants confirm the election of Group 1 (claims 1-66), without traverse. The non-elected claims (claims 67-76) have been cancelled.

2. Rejection of Claims 1-31, 65, and 63-64 Under §112

Claims 1-31, 65, and 63-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite.

Regarding claim 1, this claim stands rejected for reciting “the controller attributes” and “the controller locations” which allegedly lack antecedent basis. It appears the Examiner is misreading these claim elements. In context, claim 1 recites “identifying to the controller attributes for the controllable components,” meaning that attributes for the controllable components are identified to the controller. Likewise, claim 1 recites “identifying to the controller locations of the controllable components and interconnections therebetween,” meaning that locations are identified to the controller. To clarify these meanings, claim 27 (which has been amended into independent form based on the limitations of claim 1) has been amended to recite:

identifying ~~to the controller~~ attributes for the controllable components to the controller;
identifying ~~to the controller~~ locations of the controllable components and
interconnections therebetween to the controller.

Regarding claims 63 and 64, these claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

3. Rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-10, 13-17, 20-21, 23, 25, 32-38, 40, 42-43, 46-50, 54, 56, 58 Under §103(a)

Claims 1-6, 9-10, 13-17, 20-21, 23, 25, 32-38, 40, 42-43, 46-50, 54, 56 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

4. Rejection of Claims 7 and 39 Under §103(a)

Claims 7 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman, and in view of Gauthier. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

5. Rejection of Claims 11 and 44 Under §103(a)

Claims 11 and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman, and in view of Creed. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

6. Rejection of Claims 8 and 41 Under §103(a)

Claims 8 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman and Gauthier, and in view of Ryan. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

7. Rejection of Claims 12, 45 and 65-66 Under §103(a)

Claims 12, 45 and 65-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman, and in view of Jaeger. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

8. Rejection of Claims 26 and 59 Under §103(a)

Claims 26 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman, and in view of Goulden. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

9. Rejection of Claims 18-19, 22, 29-31, 51-53, 55 and 62-64 Under §103(a)

Claims 18-19, 22, 29-31, 51-53, 55 and 62-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman, and in view of Baracat. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

10. Rejection of Claims 24 and 57 Under §103(a)

Claims 24 and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maxon in view of Humpleman, and in view of Witmer. These claims have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

11. Allowable Subject Matter

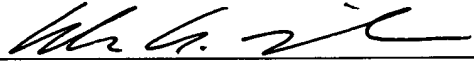
Claims 27-28 and 60-61 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 27 and 60 have been so amended, with claims 28 and 61 dependent thereon, respectively.

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Response to Office Action of September 12, 2006.

Now that all claims rejected over the prior art have been cancelled, and claim 27 incorporates an amendment to overcome the indefiniteness rejection, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in a condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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